

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/808,478

Examiner

Dalena Tran

Applicant(s)

SUZUKI ET AL.

Art Unit

3661

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 5/11/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

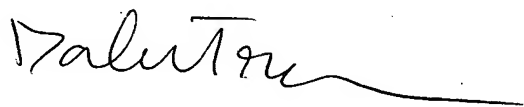
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 9/13/06
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.



EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. This communication is an Examiner's reasons for allowance in response to application filed on 3/25/04, assigned serial 10/808478 and title "Information providing device, information providing system, and information providing program product".

The prior art submitted on 9/13/06 has been considered.

2. The following is the Examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

After carefully reviewing the application and the additional search of all the possible areas relevant to the present application, a set of related prior art references has been found, but those prior art references are not deemed strong to make the application unpatentable. Thus, it is found that the application is now in condition for allowance.

As per claims 1, and 12-14, the prior art of record does not disclose an information providing device and a program product in a system-readable medium for execution by a system installed in a leader vehicle that leads a follower vehicle, for providing the follower vehicle with guidance prepared by the leader vehicle, the information providing device comprising: a guidance generator configured to prepare, in response to a state change detected signal in the leader vehicle, the guidance to guide the follower vehicle, wherein the guidance includes a photographed image of a view ahead of the leader vehicle, and information of the state change overlaid on the photographed image. This limitation in combination with the other elements in the claim was not shown or suggested by the prior art.

As per claim 8, the prior art of record does not disclose an information providing device installed in a leader vehicle that leads a follower vehicle, for providing the follower vehicle with

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guidance prepared by the leader vehicle, the information providing device comprising: a guidance generator configured to prepare, in response to a state change detected signal in the leader vehicle, the guidance to guide the follower vehicle, wherein the guidance includes a photographed image of a view ahead of the leader vehicle, wherein a state detector coupled to a lamp switch detects operation of the lamp switch installed in the leader vehicle and outputs the detecting signals, and the guidance includes an image ahead of the leader vehicle photographed when the lamp is turned on. This limitation in combination with the other elements in the claim was not shown or suggested by the prior art.

As per claims 9, and 15, the prior art of record does not disclose an information providing device and a program product in a system-readable medium for execution by a system installed in a leader vehicle that leads a follower vehicle, for providing the follower vehicle with guidance prepared by the leader vehicle, the information providing device comprising an eraser configured to compare a running history of the follower vehicle detected by a history detector with the position where the guidance was prepared and erase the guidance if a result of the comparison shows that the follower vehicle has already passed the position, and a selector configured to select the oldest guidance from among guidance pieces not erased by the eraser and transfer the selected guidance to the output unit. This limitation in combination with the other elements in the claim was not shown or suggested by the prior art.

As per claims 10, and 16, the prior art of record does not disclose an information providing device and a program product in a system-readable medium for information providing, the information providing device comprising: a guidance obtainer includes a selector configured to compare a running history of the follower vehicle with a position, the selector configured to

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select a guidance that was prepared at a closest position ahead of a present position of the follower vehicle, and the selector configured to transfer the selected guidance to the output unit. This limitation in combination with the other elements in the claim was not shown or suggested by the prior art.

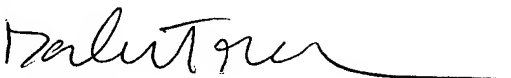
Claims 1-20, are allowable over the prior art of record.

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dalena Tran whose telephone number is 571-272-6968. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 6:30 AM-4:00 PM), off every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Black can be reached on 571-272-6956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Patent Examiner
Dalena Tran



July 18, 2007

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****U.S. Patent and Trademark Office**

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10808478	3/25/04	SUZUKI ET AL.	50195-418

McDERMOTT, WILL & EMERY
600 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3096

EXAMINER

Dalena Tran

ART UNIT	PAPER
3661	20070718

DATE MAILED:

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner for Patents

The drawing filed on 3/25/04 has been approved.